

Applicants: Stephen Clifford BROWN et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 18 and 21 to read as shown below:

1. (Original) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler, wherein, during combustion of the composition, a coherent char is formed.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler is a known flame retardant filler, an inert filler or a combination thereof.

4. (Currently amended) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminium trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, brucite ore, ~~(or the ore Brucite),~~ hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

5. (Currently amended) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second filler ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder.

6. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proportion of the nano-clay to the second filler is from 90%:10% to 10%:90% by weight.

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7. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the total filler content is from 20% to 80% by weight.

8. (Previously presented) A polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer is PVC.

9. (Currently amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler ~~comprising~~ selected from the group consisting of at least one of aluminum trihydroxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide ~~(or the ore Brucite)~~, brucite ore, hydromagnesite, Huntite, boehmite and bauxite.

10. (Currently amended) A polymer composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler ~~comprising~~ selected from the group consisting of at least one of chalk, talc and glass powder.

11. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 1.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a~~ A method of promoting char formation comprising the step of combusting the polymer composition according to claim 1 as a char promoter.

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14. (Original) A char promoting composition comprising a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler.

15. (Original) A method of improving the char promoting properties of a polymer composition, which method comprises the steps of combining a polymer and a synergistic flame retardant additive combination which comprises a nano-clay and a second filler.

16. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 9.

17. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 9.

18. (Currently amended) Use of aA method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 9 ~~as a char promoter.~~

19. (Previously presented) A cable or wire coating formed from a polymer composition according to claim 10.

20. (Previously presented) A moulded or extruded material coated with a polymer composition according to claim 10.

21. (Currently amended) Use of aA method of promoting char formation comprising the step of burning the polymer composition according to claim 10 ~~as a char promoter.~~